Claims:

1 1. A wireless communications system, comprising:

2 a central computer;

3 one or more wireless access points connected to the central computer by a computer

4 network, each access point having a coverage area;

5 a badge that communicate using a wireless protocol with one of the wireless access points

6 adjacent the badge; and

7 wherein the badge further comprises an unassigned state and an assigned state such that

8 the badge is initially in the unassigned state when it has not been assigned to a user, the badge

9 enters the assigned state when the badge has been assigned to a user and the badge returns to the

10 unassigned state when the user has finished using the badge so that the badge is dynamically

11 bound to the user while the user is using the badge.

1 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the badge is not assigned to any user of the

2 system at all times and may be reused by any user of the system.

1 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the central computer further comprises a user

2 database having user profile data and messages for each user of the system, wherein the user

3 profile data and messages for a particular user are downloaded to the badge which has been

4 assigned to the particular user.

1 4. The system of Claim 3, wherein the user profile data and messages for a particular

2 user are deleted from the badge assigned to the particular user when the badge returns to the

3 unassigned state.

1 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the central computer further comprises a browser

2 application which permits a user to interact with the central computer and change a user profile

3 database containing user profile information, the browser application further comprising means

4 for assigning a badge to a particular user by changing a badge identification field in the user

5 database so that a particular badge is assigned to a particular user.

1 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2 recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge and wherein the

3   badge is assigned to a particular user when the user first issues any command from the badge to

4   the voice recognition system.

1   7.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2   recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge and a user

3   database containing a user profile for each user of the system.

1   8.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2   recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge and wherein the

3   badge is assigned to a particular user when the user issues a "Log On" command from the badge

4   to the voice recognition system.

1   9.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user profile database further comprises an

2   alternative name field for each user containing alternative spoken names of the particular user

3   wherein the voice recognition system recognizes the alternative spoken names of the user.

1   10.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the badge further comprises an automatic answer

2   feature in which a call to the badge is capable of being answered without any action by a user of

3   the badge.

1   11.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user database further comprises a group

2   calling field containing a group name wherein the group further comprises one or more people

3   and wherein the central computer further comprises a group calling command that causes the

4   people in the group to be called by the central computer system.

1   12.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user database further comprises a call

2   screening field that contains information about which calls to a particular user are allowed so that

3   calls to the badge assigned to the particular user are prioritized.

1   13.   The system of Claim 12, wherein the call screening field further comprises a

2   block all calls field which specifies that all calls to the particular user will be blocked.

1   14.   The system of Claim 12, wherein the call screening field further comprises an

2   allow all calls field which specifies that all calls to the particular user are being allowed to be

3   answered at the badge assigned to the user.

1   15.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the call screening field further comprises a VIP

2   field containing one or more persons that can override the block all calls.

1   16.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user profile database further comprises a

2   forwarding portion that contains information for the routing of a call to a particular badge

3   assigned to the particular user when the user is not accepting calls to the badge.

1   17.   The system of Claim 16, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a work

2   phone field that specifies a work phone to which a call to the particular user may be routed.

1   18.   The system of Claim 16, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a home

2   phone field that specifies a home phone to which a call to the particular user may be routed.

1   19.   The system of Claim 16, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a

2   cellular phone field that specifies a cellular phone to which a call to the particular user may be

3   routed.

1   20.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user database further comprises a genie

2   configuration field that contains a particular personality of the voice recognition system chosen

3   by a particular user wherein each user may choose a different genie personality.

1   21.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user database further comprises a call

2   receiving portion that contains information about the call receiving options chosen by the

3   particular user.

1   22.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the user database further comprises a network

2   boundary alert field that specifies that the badge assigned to the particular user will alert the user

3   when the user leaves the coverage areas of the access points.

1   23.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the voice recognition system further comprises a

2   learn name command wherein a user spells the name of the person whose name is to be learned

3   by the voice recognition system.

1   24.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the central computer further comprises means for

2   mapping an extension number to a user of the badge wherein the mapping means further

3   comprises means for mapping the extension number to a particular user and means for mapping

4   the particular user to a badge based on the user profile in the database.

1   25.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the central computer further comprises a begin

2   tour command wherein a user walks around the system so that the voice recognition system

3   announces each access point as the user enter the range of the access point and wherein the user

4   names each access point when it is announced.

1   26.   A wireless communications system, comprising:

2   a central computer;

3   one or more wireless access points connected to the central computer by a computer

4   network, each access point having a coverage area;

5   a badge that communicates using a wireless protocol with one of the wireless access

6   adjacent the badge; and

7   wherein the central computer further comprises a database containing a user profile for

8   each user of the wireless communications system, each user profile containing information about

9   the operation of a badge that has been assigned to a particular user and wherein the user profile

10 for a particular user is capable of being changed so that the operation of the badge currently

11 · assigned to the user is also changed based on the user profile.

1   27.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the badge further comprises an unassigned state

2   and an assigned state such that the badge is initially in the unassigned state when it has not been

3   assigned to a user, the badge enters the assigned state when the badge has been assigned to a user

4   and the badge returns to the unassigned state when the user has finished using the badge so that

5   the badge is dynamically bound to the user while the user is using the badge.

1   28.   The system of Claim 27, wherein the badge is not assigned to any user of the

2   system at all times and may be reused by any user of the system.

1   29.   The system of Claim 27, wherein the central computer further comprises a user

2   database having user profile data and messages for each user of the system, wherein the user

3   profile data and messages for a particular user are downloaded to the badge which has been

4   assigned to the particular user.

1   30.   The system of Claim 29, wherein the user profile data and messages for a

2   particular user are deleted from the badge assigned to the particular user when the badge returns

3   to the unassigned state.

1   31.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the central computer further comprises a

2   browser application which permits a user to interact with the central computer and change a user

3 profile database containing user profile information, the browser application further comprising

4 means for assigning a badge to a particular user by changing a badge identification field in the

5 user database so that a particular badge is assigned to a particular user.

1 32.   The system of Claim 27, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2 recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge and wherein the

3 badge is assigned to a particular user when the user first issues any command from the badge to

4 the voice recognition system.

1 33.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2 recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge.

1 34.   The system of Claim 27, wherein the central computer further comprises a voice

2 recognition system that receives voice commands from a user through the badge and wherein the

3 badge is assigned to a particular user when the user issues a "Log On" command from the badge

4 to the voice recognition system.

1 35.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user profile database further comprises an

2 alternative name field for each user containing alternative spoken names of the particular user

3 wherein the voice recognition system recognizes the alternative spoken names of the user.

1 36.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the badge further comprises an automatic

2 answer feature in which a call to the badge is capable of being answered without any action by a

3 user of the badge.

1 37.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user database further comprises a group

2 calling field containing a group name wherein the group further comprises one or more people

3 and wherein the central computer further comprises a group calling command that causes the

4 people in the group to be called by the central computer system.

1 38.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user database further comprises a call

2 screening field that contains information about which calls to a particular user are allowed so that

3 calls to the badge assigned to the particular user are prioritized.

1 39.   The system of Claim 38, wherein the call screening field further comprises a

2 block all calls field which specifies that all calls to the particular user will be blocked.

1   40.   The system of Claim 38, wherein the call screening field further comprises an
2   allow all calls field which specifies that all calls to the particular user are being allowed to be
3   answered at the badge assigned to the user.

1   41.   The system of Claim 39, wherein the call screening field further comprises a VIP
2   field containing one or more persons that can override the block all calls.

1   42.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user profile database further comprises a
2   forwarding portion that contains information for the routing of a call to a particular badge
3   assigned to the particular user when the user is not accepting calls to the badge.

1   43.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a work
2   phone field that specifies a work phone to which a call to the particular user may be routed.

1   44.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a home
2   phone field that specifies a home phone to which a call to the particular user may be routed.

1   45.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the forwarding portion further comprises a
2   cellular phone field that specifies a cellular phone to which a call to the particular user may be
3   routed.

1   46.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user database further comprises a genie
2   configuration field that contains a particular personality of the voice recognition system chosen
3   by a particular user wherein each user may choose a different genie personality.

1   47.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user database further comprises a call
2   receiving portion that contains information about the call receiving options chosen by the
3   particular user.

1   48.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the user database further comprises a network
2   boundary alert field that specifies that the badge assigned to the particular user will alert the user
3   when the user leaves the coverage areas of the access points.

1   49.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the voice recognition system further comprises a
2   learn name command wherein a user spells the name of the person whose name is to be learned
3   by the voice recognition system.

1   50.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the central computer further comprises means
2   for mapping an extension number to a user of the badge wherein the mapping means further

3 comprises means for mapping the extension number to a particular user and means for mapping

4 the particular user to a badge based on the user profile in the database.

1   51.   The system of Claim 33, wherein the central computer further comprises a begin

2 tour command wherein a user walks around the system so that the voice recognition system

3 announces each access point as the user enter the range of the access point and wherein the user

4 names each access point when it is announced.

1   52.   A system for locating a user of a wireless communications system wherein the

2 wireless communications system has a central computer connected to one or more access points

3 which communicate wirelessly with a badge associated with a user, the system comprising:

4   means for determining the current access point being used for communications by the

5 badge of the user being located; and

6   means for generating a location indicator for the user wherein the location indicator is the

7 name and location of the access point currently being used by the user.

1   53.   A method for locating a user of a wireless communications system wherein the

2 wireless communications system has a central computer connected to one or more access points

3 which communicate wirelessly with a badge associated with a user , the method comprising:

4   receiving a request to locate a user of the wireless communications system;

5   determining the access point currently being used for communications by the badge of the

6 user; and

7   generating a location indicator for the user wherein the location indicator is the name and

8 location of the access point being used by the user.

1   54.   A system for locating a member of a group of a wireless communications system

2 wherein the wireless communications system has a central computer connected to one or more

3 access points which communicate wirelessly with one or more badges associated with one or

4 more members of the group, the system comprising:

5   means for determining the current access point(s) being used for communications by the

6 badge(s) of the one or more members of the group specified by a group location request; and

7   means for generating a location indicator for the member in the group wherein the

8   location indicator is the name and location of the access point currently being used by the

9   member of the particular group.

1   55.   A method for locating a member of a group of a wireless communications system

2   wherein the wireless communications system has a central computer connected to one or more

3   access points which communicate wirelessly with one or more badges associated with one or

4   more members of the group , the method comprising:

5   receiving a request to locate a member of a group of the wireless communications system;

6   determining the current access point(s) being used for communications by the badge(s) of

7   the one or more members of the group specified by a group location request;

8.   generating a location indicator for the members in the group wherein the location

9   indicator is the name and location of the access point currently being used by the members of the

10   group.

1   56.   A communications device for communicating wirelessly with a computer system,

2   the device comprising:

3   a central processing unit for controlling the operation of the communications device and

4   executing instructions to perform operations of the badge; and

5   wherein the device further comprises an unassigned state and an assigned state such that

6   the device is initially in the unassigned state when it has not been assigned to a user, the device

7   enters the assigned state when the device has been assigned to a user and the device returns to the

8   unassigned state when the user has finished using the device so that the device is dynamically

9   bound to the user while the user is using the particular device.